“ Research Trends in doctoral research in Library and Information Science in India: A Scientometric Study”

A Research Proposal submitted to

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

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Introduction

Research in any field has its importance in showing the exact path for further development. Research always contributes to developing any disciplinary knowledge resource. It enriches a discipline with the ability to develop the knowledge created in other disciplines. In the context of library and information science research, Tejomurthy and Kumar (1998) defined LIS research as the collection and analysis of original data on a problem of librarianship done within LIS institutions according to scientific and scholarly standards. Research is necessary to create new knowledge and contribute to the growth of LIS as a profession and discipline. LIS research contributes to the understanding of the information society and its development, enables professionals to relate more effectively to their working environment, provides practitioners with guidance, and promotes progress in the profession (McNicol & Nankivell, 2003, as cited in Kawalec, 2013). The concept of LIS research has gained popularity since many years ago throughout the world. A great deal of research has been published around the globe on various dimensions of this subject. Davarpanah and Aslekia (2008) showed international LIS research trends based on 56 international LIS journals (Davarapanah2008). Their study discussed the following subject areas: communication and information technology, computerized information storage and retrieval, and library use and users. In India, LIS researchers are highly interested in working on open access, Web 2.0, World Wide Web, and the Internet as new areas of research (Mittal, 2011). In Spain, researchers were highly interested in working in the areas of information retrieval, description of services and studies of scientific communications. They preferred descriptive, discursive and empirical methods in conducting research (Cano,1999).

Statement of the Problem

" Research Trends in doctoral dissertations in Library and Information Science in India : A Scientometric study"

Definitional analysis of Terms:

Research

Research is a systematic activity to reveal the truth. All around us, we notice that human advancement, inventions and discoveries are feasible because the researchers take pain to be curious and inquisitive. Kerlinger says, research is a Systematic, controlled, empirical and critical investigation of hypothetical propositions about the presumed relations among natural phenomenon. However, the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences defines research as the manipulation of generalizing, extending, correcting or verifying knowledge. That means research is a fact-finding process through the application of scientific methods. Research is carried out for development of knowledge, improvement of existing knowledge, to provide solutions to specific problems and to improve processes and practices.

Trends

The term "trend" is defined as a general direction of change: a way of behaving, proceeding, etc. that is developing and becoming more common. A trend is a presentation of event occurrences over time on a chart. A research trend is the collective action of a group of researches, each of which begins to pay considerable attention to a specific scientific topic.

Library and Information Science in India

The historical background of library science is more than 135 years old. When, the first library school was started by Melvil Dewey at Columbia College in 1887. But in India, LIS study initiated in 1911 with the efforts of Sayajirao Gaikwad II ruler of Baroda State. After the time span of 20 years in 1931, S.R.Ranganathan actively participated in library science research. He introduced Five laws of library science research, Colon classification(CC), Classified Catalogue Code(CCC),Normative principles, Canons etc. with the effort of Ranganathan different type of subject areas are introduced in LIS. The India 1st and 2nd PhD was awarded in the area of library classification. First study was carried on Facet analysis and depth classification of agriculture and next one was on

Expansion and Modification of DDC for classifying Indological books with reference in Indian Philosophy and Indian religion. But during the passage of time new subject are introduced in Library and Information science such as Statiscal bibliography, content analysis, citation analysis, Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Webometrics, Internet uses, Management, web2.0, RSS feed, library software, Information management etc. as a result, the scope of the LIS are spread.

Review of related Literature

Literature review assist in gaining inclusive overview and summary of available information on a particular topic.There are many studies conducted on the research of LIS throughout the world. The present researchers have identified some substantial research on this issue.

Maharana and Das conducted work on the growth and development of LIS research in India during 1999-2013. They analyzed the growth and development of LIS research carried out by Indian researchers based on the publications indexed in Social Science Citation Index. It was found that the annual publications of Indian researchers range from 9 to 10 papers with 0.64 degrees of collaboration. The most papers were published within the range between 6 to 10 pages and the majority of the publications were articles (125, 89.29%) (Maharana and Das, 2014).

Shukla highlighted the published research in Library and Information Science field contributed by LIS researchers in India by using the secondary source. during the last four decades, 1980-2019. this study has analyzed citations, publication, and authorship of all 4304 papers. It was found that 4304 articles were contributed by Indian LIS professionals out of a total of 426928 global contributions. (Shukla et al.,2019).

By using the 'University News-A weekly journal of higher education' Bhanu Partap analyzed to find out the current trends and areas of research, growth pattern and productivity of universities along with broad and narrow subject areas in the discipline. (Partap, 2015)

Nirmal Singh study elaborates the Library education and research in the 21st century based on journal articles in Library and information science indexed in the Indian Citation Index (ICI). This study finds out that During

the 21st century, LIS education and research have evolved to encompass the subjects of mere automation of library operations to technology-based
resources, services, tools applications and facilities. (Singh et al., 2015).

Objectives

The primary objective of the study is to understand the growth & development of Library and Information science research in India in the past 7 ½ decades.

- To identify the number of doctoral theses in library and information science.
- To know the distribution of doctoral theses in different universities of India.
- To find out the decade-wise publication of LIS Doctoral Theses.
- To know the research supervisor, co-supervisor who guided most doctoral theses.
- To identify the chronological development of Library and Information science researches in India.
- To know the statewise distribution of doctoral theses in India.
- To identify the subjectwise trend of library and Information science research in India.
- To know the occurrence of Bradford's law, zipf's law, Lotka's law

Hypothesis

The following the hypotheses are made for the present study:

- Universities from maximum Indian states hosted doctoral dissertations of Library and information science subject on Shodhganga .
- Doctoral dissertations of male and female researcher has an equally distributed under the study.
- In Library and Information science research, there are very less number of female research supervisors.
- The majority of the research guides guided to below ten researchers.
- Universities uploaded LIS theses on Shodhganga timely and regularly

Research Methodology and tools

Research methodology is the combination of two meaningful words i.e.

'Research' and 'methodology'. Research methodology lead to the investigator in how research work should be done, which tools have to select for data collection, how data will analyze, determination of samples, how scope and limitations should decide, which research method is applicable for the fulfillment of concern study etc. In the absence of proper methodology, research can not be carried out systematically. Methodology plays an important role in scientific investigation of any research. Scientific investigation involves careful & proper adoption of research design, use of standardized tools & texts in identifying adequate sample techniques for analyzing the data. For this study the researcher used the scientometric analysis method.

To achieve the objectives of this study the bibliographic details of the LIS doctoral dissertations awarded by the various Indian universities were examined and characterized them based on focused stream of research. The analytic process involved three steps: i) selecting relevant dissertations looking clearly at the titles, ii) Identifying their core theme of research and iii) classifying them into respective categories.

Scope & limitations of the study

The study covers research work in LIS at the ph.D level which have been already awarded for doctoral degree by Indian universities. The period of coverage is from 1950 to 2023, a period of 73 years. It has considered only those titles of doctoral theses appeared in & two leading databases namely INFLIBNET_Indcat(http;//incat.inflibnet.ac.in/indcat) , Vidyanidhi(http;//vidyanidhi.org) and Shodhganga. The data collected from Indcat. Vidyanidhi and Shodhganga may not cover all theses of India, So, there is a chance for exclusion some of the theses in different universities in India.

Importance of the study

The study " Research Trends in doctoral research in Library and Information Science : A Scientometric study" is important because it ensures that libraries and information centers remain vibrant, responsive and valuable institutions in an ever-evolving information landscape. It contributes to the enhancement of library services, the dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of society as a whole.

In the digital age, technology is rapidly changing how information is accessed, stored, and shared. This study helps libraries adapt to these technological changes, ensuring they provide up-to-date services and resources.

Researchers and scholars contribute to the advancement of the field by generating new knowledge through research. Studying recent trends helps researchers identify gaps in existing knowledge and contribute to the field's growth by conducting studies that address these gaps.

International status:

The study " Research Trends in doctoral research in Library and Information Science : A Scientometric study" has international-level importance because it offers insights, best practices and a unique perspective that can benefit the global library and information science community. It contributes to the exchange of knowledge and informs international discussions and initiatives in the field.

International researchers often engage in comparative studies to understand how different countries approach similar challenges. A study on research trends in India can serve as a benchmark for comparative research, helping to identify similarities, differences and best practices that can be applied globally.

National status:

The study " Research Trends in doctoral research in Library and Information Science : A Scientometric study" an lead is nationally important as it contributes to the enhancement of library services, informs policy decisions, supports education, promotes open access and addresses the digital divide. It plays a vital role in ensuring that libraries and information services in India are well-equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of the digital age and make a meaningful impact on the nation's development.

This research can lead to the improvement of library and information services across India. By identifying trends and best practices, libraries can offer more effective and efficient services to the public, researchers and students.

Significance of the Study

Research programs at the Ph.D. level in Library and Information science carried out in the universities of India during 1957 to 2023 have been analyzed to find out the current trends & areas of research, growth pattern & productivity of universities along with broad & narrow subject areas in the library and information science. The present study helps the LIS research community to make them aware of the current scenario & direction of research in this era of Information and communication technology. The study is statistical analysis of LIS research/theses. In the present days, information explosion is occurring almost in every subject fields. It becomes very difficult to retrieve right information at the right time. Along with that it is difficult to find out the top most productive works in a particular subject. A bibliometric study helps to know about the growth & development of research in the Library and Information science.

The findings and suggestions of the study are applicable to research scholars, research scholars, research supervisors, authors, library authorities, universities and also to shodhganga team.

Reason for the selection of topic

The choice of the research topic " Research Trends in doctoral research in Library and Information Science : A Scientometric study" could be influenced by several factors like technological advancements, user needs and expectations etc. including the need for updating & improving the field of library and Information science in India. By studying recent trends, professionals can identify and adopt innovative strategies that can enhance the effectiveness of library services, information management and user engagement.

Organisation of the chapters:

Academic research work is presented in several chapters and in this pattern following chapter scheme will be adopt by the researcher.

Chapter -1: Introduction

Chapter -2: Review of related literature

Chapter- 3: Research methodology

Chapter -4: Data collection, Analysis and Interpretation

Chapter -5: Summary, Findings, Conclusions and suggestions

Bibliography
Appendices

Plan of work

Sr. No.	Year	Research Work Plan
01	First year	Detailed Study regarding related literature and collection secondary data. Present the progress report time to time to the university.
02	Second year	Complete the writing of review of related literature and start compilation. Collection and Study of required data as per research topic and prepare the topic as per chapter Scheme
03	Third year	Analysis and interpretation of primary data and finalize the thesis, Report writing printing, binding and submission of thesis.

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